

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00852 300813Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01
DOE-15 SOE-02 /129 W
-----036404 301914Z /72

R 300605Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0273
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON EEWT CH
SUBJ: PRC PLANNERS TRAVEL ABROAD

REF: A) PEKING 819, B) PEKING 796, C) PEKING 846

1. SUMMARY. A SURPRISINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF PRC STUDY MISSIONS TRAVELING ABROAD INCLUDE HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO ONE CHINESE SOURCE, THE PLANNERS ARE RECEIVING NEEDED EXPOSURE TO MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AFTER TEN YEARS OF ISOLATION IN CHINA. THE PLANNERS' TRAVEL MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT THE FOREIGN COMPONENT OF THE 1976-1985 PLAN IS NOT YET COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRC ECONOMIC STUDY DELEGATIONS TO ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, WHICH SEEM TO BE ON THE INCREASE THIS SPRING, FREQUENTLY HAVE INCLUDED VICE MINISTERS OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION (SPC). THE PRESENCE OF PLANNING OFFICIALS ON HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS WAS NOTED LAST
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DECEMBER WHEN SPC VICE MINISTER YUAN PAO-HUA ACCOMPANIED LI CHIANG TO BRITAIN AND FRANCE AND THEN IN JANUARY WHEN VICE MINISTER LI JEN-CHUN ACCOMPANIED A PRC PETROLEUM CORPORATION DELEGATION TO THE US.

3. THE LIST OF SPC VICE MINISTERS AND OTHER SPC

OFFICIALS TRAVELING ABROAD WILL LENGTHEN CONSIDERABLY THIS SPRING. ON MARCH 28 A DELEGATION INCLUDING TWO SPC VICE MINISTERS, YUAN YUN AND FANG WEI-CHUNG, LEFT FOR JAPAN (REF C). A COAL INDUSTRY DELEGATION VISITING WEST GERMANY IN MARCH INCLUDED VICE MINISTER CHIN HSI-YING (REF A). IN APRIL, SPC VICE MINISTER KU HSIU-LIEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE CHINA CHEMICAL FIBER TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP TO THE US. PLANNING OFFICIALS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION TO EUROPE THIS SPRING HEADED BY METALLURGY MINISTER TANG KE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ONE OF THE FOUR VICE MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING WILL BE FROM THE SPC. THE KU MU DELEGATION TO VISIT EUROPE IN MAY (REF B) WILL INCLUDE 30 PERSONS, INCLUDING SOME PROVINCIAL LEADERS, BUT OUR CONTACTS SAY THAT THE NAMELIST IS UNDECIDED. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OTHER PLANNING OFFICIALS WILL JOIN THE DELEGATION TO EUROPE THAT SPC VICE MINISTER KU MING WILL HEAD (THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE VICE MINISTERS OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION, HOWEVER, AS WELL AS DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES IN SHANGHAI, SHANSI, HUNAN, KANSU, SZECHWAN AND LIAONING).

4. CHINESE OFFICIALS RECENTLY EXPLAINED TO THE BRITISH THAT PLANNING OFFICIALS ARE BEING INCLUDED IN STUDY MISSIONS BECAUSE, AFTER TEN YEARS OF RELATIVE ISOLATION, THEY NEED TO BE FAMILIARIZED WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND ECONOMIES. THIS MAY
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INDICATE THAT THE FOREIGN COMPONENT OF THE TEN YEAR (1976-1985) PLAN IS STILL BEING DRAFTED. AN ACTIVE PROGRAM OF INFORMATION-GATHERING IS APPARENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CHINESE, AND MAY UNDERLIE MOST OF THIS SPRING'S VISITS ABROAD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING00852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780138-0865
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978038/aaaaagpx.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f4d618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PEKING 819, 78 PEKING 796, 78 PEKING 846
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3365194
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC PLANNERS TRAVEL ABROAD
TAGS: ECON, EEWT, TECH, CH, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f4d618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014